

MEETING MINUTES FOR 4-9-14 VIOLENT CRIME COORDINATING COUNCIL

Council members in attendance: Andy Luger; Hilary Caligiuri; David Voigt; John Gross; Cari Gerlicher; Chris Benson; Jim Jensen; Kip Carver (for Rich Stanek); John Kirkwood (for Matt Bostrom) ; Mike Goldstein; Ken Reed (for Thomas Smith) ; Hector Garcia; Melvin Carter; and Drew Evans (for Wade Setter).

Staff: Mona Dohman; Tricia Hummel; Brian Marquart and Kristin Lail.

Guests: Ron Yearwood, Robert Woldt and Dave Korus, FBI; Don Rothstein and Mark Ulner, DOC; and Rick Moldenhauer, DHS

Absent: David Hermerding; William Hutton; Gordon Ramsay; Janee Harteau; and Bill Ziegler

Meeting materials:

- VCCC 4-9-14 agenda
- VCCC 2-12-14 Draft minutes
- Statewide Commander Report 4-9-14
- 2015 Violent Crime Enforcement Team RFP Plan
- 2015 VCET Eligibility Criteria
- 4/17/14 Hennepin County Heroin Meeting Announcement
- NIH Heroin Research Report Series
- *Reefer Sadness* article by Carol Falkowski
- 4/24/14 South East Minnesota Community Roundtable Agenda

Location: The meeting was held in the Pung Conference Room, Minnesota Department of Corrections. 1450 Energy Park Drive.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Jim Jensen called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

M/S/P (Reed/Carver) Action on 2/12/14 meeting minutes: Motion to approve previous meeting minutes.

M/S/P(Goldstein/Reed) Action on Agenda: Motion to approve agenda.

U.S. Attorney Update: Andrew Luger was sworn into office as U. S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota in February. He noted staffing changes in the office including First Assistant Greg Brooker, Criminal Division Chief Tracy Perzel and Drugs & Violent Crime Section Attorney Nate Petterson. While acknowledging limitations in sentencing, he pledged to provide aggressive prosecution by great lawyers, increased speed and responsiveness, and expanded partnerships.

He is meeting with key state and local criminal justice leaders and offered his direct contact information for any concerns. Chair Jensen welcomed him to the Committee.

Legislative Update: Commissioner Dohman provided follow-up on the letter from Representative Melin reviewed at the previous VCCC meeting and subsequent discussions with Representative Paymar on the legislative intent in the creation of the Council. He voiced concerns about the VCCC taking stances on bills in the legislature and proposed an amendment in the unsession bill HF 3017, limiting the scope to the specific duties listed in statute 299A.642 and deleting reference to “developing an overall strategy” on drugs and gangs. The revised statute would provide for guidance to law enforcement, prosecutors and the Department of Public Safety on issues related to the investigation and prosecution of gang and drug crime. Members noted that they were appointed to the council based on the expertise in these areas and would like to continue to provide thoughtful discussion and commentary on emerging issues. The Commissioner welcomes VCCC recommendations and members may also work with their professional organizations. Other legislative updates included the synthetic drugs and Narcan opiate overdose bills which had passed as well as the medical marijuana bill which had been reframed in the public health arena.

Standing Committee Updates

Governance: The Committee has not recently met. If the VCCC amendment passes, there will need to be changes made to the Committee Structure document which currently includes references to proposing legislation, taking official positions and providing legislative testimony.

Data Committee: Drew Evans provided a copy of a gang data collection that was presented to VCET Commanders at the March meeting. The BCA Fusion Center analysts have documented primary gangs active in the state and are now entering subjects into the ACISS gang module. The Statewide Commander noted that a gang data question has been added to the 2014 VCET progress reporting form and that experts have been identified through outreach to the Midwest Gang Investigators Association. A two year review of the gang criteria should be considered in the fall of 2014.

Professional Standards Committee: Cari Gerlicher noted that five new VCET reports have been published by the Office of the State Auditor and reviewed by the subcommittee. She mentioned findings related to reporting forfeitures properly in the state SAFES system and tracking the value of seized items disposed in a lot. The Statewide Commander noted that 14 of 23 second round audits have been completed with a total of 26 findings, compared to 99 findings in the first 14 audits in the first round. Audits will continue through the summer. Members recognized Brian Marquart for his liaison with VCET commanders and OSA staff by translating findings and providing technical assistance in developing corrective measures.

Community Engagement: Hector Garcia reported on the outcomes of the first Community Roundtable on Gangs and Drugs convened by the Ramsey County VCET and CLAC at CLUES. There were about 30 participants, primarily staff of organizations serving the Latino community. There was discussion about using this network of community providers to disseminate information on gangs and drug crime. The Attorney General's office forwards VCCC meeting materials to all of the Councils of Color. Relevant research and resources on gang and drug issues could also be posted on the VCCC website. The second community roundtable was scheduled for April 24th in Rochester. After which the community engagement subcommittee will meet to discuss next steps.

Lunch break

FBI Safe Streets Presentation: FBI Supervising Special Agent Robert Woldt provided an overview of the Twin Cities Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Force, with participation from the Minneapolis Police Department, St. Paul Police Department, and state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Members discussed information sharing and deconfliction of targets for officer safety. Contact information will be forwarded to all VCCC members and VCET commanders.

Members appreciated hearing from law enforcement partners and suggested future speakers from the following organizations: ATF, State Patrol Interdiction, U.S. Postal Inspectors, an emergency room physician on drug overdose trends, and local task forces employing best practices with emerging issues such as synthetics in Duluth and coordination with child protection in Southwestern Minnesota.

Statewide Commander Update:

- Conducted VCET site visits, attended advisory board meetings, and provided orientation to new commanders
- Continued follow-up with Office of the State Auditor and VCET commanders on audit findings
- Facilitated the annual meeting of VCET commanders
- Taught two basic narcotics courses for the BCA that were well-received
- Continued work with subcommittee on 2015 RFP
- Provided assistance to DHS on synthetics website
- Working with MNSANI on CAN-AM training in May
- Planning for DEA lab certification training and advanced narcotics course
- Former Statewide Commander is now working as a regional director for MOCIC and will be conducting outreach to local law enforcement in the southern half of Minnesota.

Grant Administration Update: 2014 reporting forms have been updated for VCETs and DHS prescription takeback funding has been amended to 6 VCET grants. DEA asked to remind all about National prescription take back day on April 26th.

2015 RFP Planning Group: Mike Goldstein reported that the committee met several times, discussed VCET priorities, funding standards and eligibility criteria. They recommend establishing target grant amounts for applicants up front based on a standard formula and have considered current grant amounts, VCET reported arrests and seizures, staffing, population, UCR crime rates and local tax base. The committee proposed a formula with base funding allocated by population and additional funds allocated per full-time investigators assigned to the VCET. With significant variance from current funding amounts, a cap of 10% change could be instituted for 2015, but this funding model would carry forward in to future funding years. Members voiced concerns about the need for performance-based measures in the funding formula, recognition of high crime rates in the metro area, and possible impact of significant changes in funding. The statewide commander noted revised language in eligibility criteria on staffing, supervision, partners and co-location and he noted those VCETs that would be most impacted. OJP staff will be meeting with Commissioner Dohman to review the funding plan recommendation and will share the VCCC discussion on funding targets.

M/S/P (Gerlicher/Kirkwood) Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn VCCC Meeting at 1:05 p.m.